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OLD HOMES ON GEORGETOWN HEIGHTS.

By WILLIAM A. GORDON.

(Read before the Society, March 17, 1914.)

I have been requested to say something about "Georgetown Mansions"; but as it is not possible to refer to all which are of historic interest I will confine myself to an account of some of the homes which were located on what was known as "Georgetown Heights." Before doing so I will ask you to bear with me while I speak for a few minutes about the old town.

Georgetown has been my home since my birth, and many things about it in the years gone by have made indelible impressions upon my memory. The river filled with vessels, and wharves piled high with hogsheads of sugar and molasses; the long lines of wagons drawn by bell-bowed teams and filled with produce from Maryland, Virginia and Pennsylvania; the shrill cries of the rough and profane fishwomen; the cheery song of the cartmen and draymen; the glare of the iron furnaces and hum of the sawmills; the pungent smell of bark and tanneries; the dust of the flour mills and cotton factories; the shops of the cabinet makers with their stores of foreign woods, of the curriers with their marble slabe and glittering knives; and of the millwrights with their keen edged broadaxes. Nearly all the trades which flourished when I was a boy, and gave employment to numbers of intelligent, industrious and self-respecting mechanics, have disappeared, and machinery instead of men does the work. No doubt it is all for the best; but it is hard for old men to recognize such to be the case.

Georgetown was a typical Southern town, with negroes forming a large part of the population. Slavery existed, a mild kind of domestic servitude, with ties of sympathy and affection binding master and servant. It is a pleasure to recall the manners and customs, the pleasures and sorrows of those simple dependent child-like people. The system (in my belief a greater injury to the master than to the slave) has gone, and with it those manners and customs and, what is unfortunate, the kindly feeling which existed between the races.

The history of Georgetown from the time it was founded by the Assembly of the Province of Maryland until it ceased to exist as a separate city, extending over a period of more than a hundred and twenty years, is most honorable, and if worthily recorded would make interesting reading. It was the home of an enterprising and self-reliant people, whose civic pride was highly developed and whose love for the town inspired every action. While the social line was strictly drawn, a kindly feeling and common bond of sympathy drew all classes close together. The men chosen to preside over its welfare were of a high order, and proved ever true to its material interests. Its clergy, such as Balch, Neale, McIlvane, were the equals in culture, eloquence and piety of those in any part of the country; its physicians, such as Worthington, Schaff, Bohrer, Riley, Tyler, Magruder; its lawyers and jurists, such as Key, Gantt, Morsell, the Coxes, Dunlop, Ould and Caperton, stood at the head of their professions; its great merchants, like the Lairds, Smiths and Dodges, reached out to the Orient, the Mediterranean, South America and the Islands of the Sea, and bringing back their prized products, distributed them not only through the neighboring States, but sent them over rivers, mountains and prairies as far as the Great

Lakes. It was the training place of financiers, like Peabody, Corcoran and the Riggs, and its money went out lavishly in opening roads into the surrounding country, in building bridges, contributing to the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, and erecting causeways and other works in aid of navigation and business; and during the trying days of 1814 in assisting the Government by loans to the amount of about a million dollars, part of which in coin was sent overland in wagons to pay the veterans of Jackson's victorious Army at New Orleans. Its educators, such as Carneghan, McVean, Abbot and English, drew pupils from all parts of the country. Within its borders were established the first Protestant and Catholic churches of the District, the first Jesuit College and first Visitation Convent and Academy in the United States, and in the Lancasterian school the first efforts towards the public school system.

Here gathered the frontier Colonists who went out to oppose the Indian invader, and the British soldiers and sailors who marched with Braddock to meet their fate at Fort Duquesne; here the Committee of Safety refused to permit taxed tea to be landed and forced its return to England; here during the Revolution were shops for the manufacture of guns, ammunition and munitions of war, and warehouses where army supplies of all kinds were stored; here the Continental Army crossed on its march south to face and overcome Cornwallis; and here were cast the cannon used in the wars of 1812 and with Mexico.

After the Revolutionary War it became the home of many distinguished in camp and cabinet; and when the location of the Federal Capital was being considered none were more active in urging the claims of the head of tide water on the Potomac than its intelligent and influential citizens. Later, when the foundations of this

beautiful city were being laid deep and strong, it was the frequent meeting place of Washington, Jefferson, Madison, L'Enfant and Elliott.

Many things have happened and many changes taken place. With the coming of railways its commerce, which had rivaled that of Baltimore and caused many to believe it would be greater than the Maryland metropolis, disappeared; and at last, after having retained it for more than one hundred and forty-four years, the name of the town was lost by absorption into that of the Capital City, to be thought of by few, mentioned often with a shrug of the shoulders, and to a great extent neglected by those in authority. The old name is still cherished by those living west of Rock Creek, and regret lingers that the names of Washington, Jefferson, Madison, Monroe, Lafayette, Langan, Stoddert, Dumbarton, Beall, Montgomery and Green have been taken from the streets, and numbers and letters substituted.

My excuse for taking so much of your time before speaking of "Old Mansions" is that I wished you to know something of what the old town was in the days of long ago.

No more desirable location for a town could have been selected. On the south flowed the Potomac, with deep channels on both sides of the Analostan Island. The water as Captain John Smith wrote in 1607 "exceedeth with abundance of fish, more plentiful nor more variety of small fish, had any of us ever seen in one place swimming in the water." And where William Wirt, in his recollections when a school boy during the Revolution, said that canvas-back ducks were so plentiful that they whitened the water and when they rose produced a sound like thunder. On the east was Rock Creek, a deep navigable stream with mouth extending

from Observatory Hill to Wisconsin Avenue. The hills were covered with magnificent forests; and as described by Captain Henry Fleete in 1632 "was the most pleasant place in all the country, convenient for habitation, the air temperate in summer and not violent in winter, with soil exceedingly fertile." Even now, though so many changes have taken place, we can well imagine how beautiful the surroundings must have been.

The larger part of the "Heights" and much of the eastern portion of Georgetown are located within a large tract of land, which under the name of the "Rock of Dumbarton" was patented by the Province of Maryland in 1703 to Colonel Ninian Beall, the worthy to whom the memorial tablet in Saint John's (Georgetown) churchyard was recently erected.

The country at the junction of the Potomac and Rock Creek had been settled soon after the founding of the colony. Scharf in his *Western Maryland* saying, "It is probable that the first settlement in what was afterwards known as Frederick was in the neighborhood of Georgetown, which was for a long time the chief mart and only seaport of the country." When the Maryland Act of 1751 creating George-Town was enacted there was a tobacco warehouse and considerable settlement at that point, and when under its provisions a part of the "Rock of Dumbarton" was taken by condemnation the owner, Colonel George Beall, youngest son and devisee under will of Ninian, was highly indignant and in vigorous language protested, concluding with "If I can have the rights of a British subject I ask no more. God save King George." Though then so loyal to the king, he proved a brave and steadfast patriot when Independence was declared.

From time to time there is speculation in regard to the name of the town, and it is even stated that it was named from George Washington. As he was only nineteen years of age at the time the town was founded it is evident that it was not named for him. Some have thought it was in honor of King George; but there is nothing of record to sustain this. It is more probable that "George" was selected because the town was located upon the land of George Beall and George Gordon, both of whose names are mentioned in the Legislative Act. Until long after it became a part of the District of Columbia, the name was written with a hyphen connecting the words "George" and "Town," both beginning with capital letters.

By the will of George Beall that part of the "Rock of Dumbarton" lying south of the first branch north of the town was devised to his son Thomas, known as "Thomas Beall of George." Owing to the failure of the will to pass title in fee, this valuable tract would have been lost to Thomas but for the generosity of his eldest brother who had inherited under the law of primogeniture then in force.

Georgetown was not a "boom town," the law providing that owners who failed to improve their lots with substantial buildings within a specific time should lose them. As population increased rapidly, additions to the original town became necessary; and Thomas Beall subdivided his part of the "Rock of Dumbarton" and made two additions, the first in 1783 and the second, which included the squares on the south side of R Street in 1785. These squares extended along the northern border of the town limits, which was fixed by Congress in 1809 in the center of R Street, where boundary stones were planted and remained for many years known as "corporation stones." It was evi-

dently the desire of Beall that these squares north of Q Street should be the sites for homes of a superior character and of more than usual commodiousness, and with that object in view he did not divide them into lots as he did the other squares. In aid of his intention in this regard Congress in 1809, when it vested the authorities of the town with the right to open streets through private property by condemnation, provided that no streets should be opened through any of these squares without the written consent of the owner duly certified and acknowledged.

On account of the beauty and healthfulness of the location certain of the leading citizens of the town urged that the Federal Capital be located in the neighborhood, the memorial stating that "in point of healthiness, goodness of air and water, considerations of so much weight, there are few spots in the United States which can boast any advantages over the one now in contemplation; and it is conceived that the hilliness of the country, far from being an objection, will be thought a desirable circumstance, as it will at once contribute to the beauty, health and security of a city intended for the seat of empire." At the beginning of the Nineteenth Century the "Heights" were sought as the place of residence and became the home of a refined, cultivated, brave and hospitable people. This is alluded to in the Georgetown Museum of January 9, 1809, in the following grandiloquent though somewhat confused language: "The elevated heights surrounding the town afford situations for gentlemen's seats, which for extent and grandeur of prospect is not exceeded in America, and in some of these we already see rising to the view the elegant mansions of the opulent citizens. The variagated view exhibited from these eminences including Georgetown, the City of Washington, the

Potomac and its banks beautiful beyond compare. In short we know of no place more eligible than Georgetown as a residence, whether the elegance and substantial comforts of life, added to the charms of polished society be inducements to the wealthy, or the golden rewards of industry be the object of the enterprising."

In considering the old homes the starting point will be the Lane opening into R Street. This Lane known at different times as "Parrott's Lane," "Boyce Lane," and for years past as "Lovers' Lane," was opened in 1800 as far north as the Branch. In 1833 it was extended by the court on petition of owners of outlying properties, under provisions of the old Maryland law providing "for roadways from farms and plantations to places of public worship, mills, market places, public ferries and court houses." Leading as it does from the "Heights" to the romantic country bordering on Rock Creek it is perhaps more frequently used and better known than any suburban road in the District.

West of the Lane and extending westerly on the north side of R Street almost to Wisconsin Avenue and north to the Branch is the property known as "The Oaks," which was conveyed to William H. Dorsey in 1800. He was the first judge of our Orphans' Court, having been appointed in 1801 by Thomas Jefferson. He built the original mansion and held it until 1805 when he sold to Robert Beverly of Essex County, Virginia. Mr. Beverly was the great-grandson of Robert Beverly the historian whose "Present state of Virginia, including an account of the first settlement of Virginia and the history of its government at this time" was published in 1705. He married Jane Tayloe of the distinguished family of "Mount Airy," and sister of Colonel John Tayloe who built the "Octagon House." In 1822 he gave the place to his son James B.

Beverly, who had married a daughter of David Peter of "Peter's Grove." The following year he sold it to James E. Calhoun, of South Carolina, and it became the home of his distinguished brother, John C. Calhoun. Whilst residing there the latter was Secretary of War and Vice-President, and it was here he studied the political questions of the day, for he says, referring to the office of Vice-President, that: "The station, from its leisure, gave me a good opportunity to study the fundamental questions of the day, called then the American System, from which I profited." In 1828 it became the property of Brooke Mackall, and in 1846 of Edward M. Linthicum. In the early days it was known as "Acrolophos" (Grove on the Hill), a most appropriate name, being on the highest point of the crest of the hill. Mr. Linthicum was a prominent and prosperous merchant of the highest type, a man of great civic virtue, and deeply interested in everything which tended to benefit the community. In his will he provided for the endowment of a school for the free education of "white boys of Georgetown in useful learning and in the spirit and practice of Christian virtue," being, as he expressed it, "convinced that knowledge and piety constitute the only assurance of happiness and healthful progress to the human race, and devoutly recognizing the solemn duty to society which devolves on its members, and entertaining a serious desire to contribute in some manner to the permanent welfare of the community amongst whom my life has been spent." As a commentary on the length to which partisan feeling went in the years succeeding the War between the States, it may be stated that efforts to have the Linthicum Institute incorporated by Congress were prevented by Charles Sumner, Senator from Massachusetts, for the reason that the benefit was confined to white youths.

The house, which has been changed but not improved in appearance by the addition of a mansard roof and other alterations, was a large two-story brick, with hall, wide enough for a hay wagon to pass through, running from front to rear, on either side of which were great parlors beautifully proportioned, covering with the hall the entire ground floor. The east parlor opened into a bright sunny dining room, which in turn looked out upon a well filled greenhouse. With flower gardens on the east, wooded lawn in front, grove of forest trees on the west, and gently sloping well sodded hills in the rear, all of which were kept in perfect order during the life of Mr. Linthicum, "The Oaks" was the show place of the District.

North of the Branch is "Clifton," for many years the home of Charles Ellet, the distinguished engineer. In 1842 he planned and built the first wire suspension bridge over the Schuylkill at Philadelphia, and in 1847 designed and built the railroad suspension bridge at Niagara below the Falls. He was also a writer, and his "Physical Geography of the Mississippi Valley, with suggestions as to the improvement of the Ohio and other rivers," which was published by the Smithsonian Institution, was considered one of the most noteworthy productions of the day. During the War between the States he converted a number of high draught steamers on the Mississippi into rams, with which he disabled and sank several Confederate vessels, thereby assisting materially in opening the river to the Federal fleets. In the naval attack on Memphis he received wounds from which he died.

The property opposite the western part of "The Oaks" was sold in 1796 to Thomas Sim Lee, the distinguished Maryland patriot, and was well known as "Lee's Hill." After his services as revolutionary

governor he removed in 1793 to the western part of the State though he passed his winters in Georgetown. It was his intention to build a permanent home on this commanding site, but the death of his wife soon after changed his plans. I mention the above simply for the purpose of showing the class of people who then selected Georgetown Heights as homes.

The entire square east of "Lee's Hill," bounded by Thirty-first, Thirty-second, Q and R Streets, was "Tudor Place," which was purchased from Beall in 1794 by Francis Loundes, one of the merchants whose shipments of tobacco made the town an active commercial center. In 1805 he sold to Thomas Peter, son of Robert Peter, Mayor of Georgetown from 1789 to 1798 and one of the original proprietors of part of the land on which the Federal Capital was located, whose wife was Martha Parke Custis, daughter of John Parke Custis, and the granddaughter of Martha Washington.

Whether the erection of the stately old residence, which was designed by Mr. Thornton, architect of the Capitol, was commenced by Loundes is uncertain, though it is known that the wings were first built and dwelt in by the Peters, and that the bequest made to Mrs. Peter in the will of General Washington was used upon the central building. The title was placed in George Washington Parke Custis in trust for Mrs. Peter, and finally became vested in her daughter, Britannia Wellington Kennon, by deed from Robert E. Lee and Mary Custis his wife, the only child of George Washington Parke Custis.

General Washington was much attached to Martha Peter, and when business connected with laying out the Federal City brought him from Mount Vernon was accustomed to stay with her, his last visit to the District being to her house. When the Government was

removed from Philadelphia the home of the Peters, was the resort of the most distinguished—residents and visitors. In 1825 Lafayette dined at Tudor Place, on which occasion one of the daughters of the house, America, met her husband, William George Williams, who had shortly before graduated at West Point, and who as Chief of Engineers of General Zachary Taylor's Army was killed at the Battle of Monteray. In 1842 another daughter, Britannia Wellington, was married to Commodore Beverly Kennon, whose tragic death by the explosion on the Princeton, a little more than a year later, left her a widow with one child—a daughter. From her birth to her death, ninety-six years, Tudor Place was the home of Mrs. Kennon, for more than fifty of which she presided as its mistress. Her courtly manners, innate dignity and gentleness, wide-spread charities and Christian virtues, made her a distinguished example of the old time Georgetownians. The "Tudor Place" residence is today as originally built. The entrance to the main building from the north is into a hallway, beyond which three large parlors opening into each other extend to the southern front, whilst beyond these in the wings are the dining room, library, offices and conservatory. There is a reposeful beauty about these various rooms which never fails to impress the visitor. Outside on the south the lawn broken by groups of trees extends to Q Street, and to the north the old-fashioned garden with its great box-woods formerly ran to an oak grove along R Street. There is about the whole place an air of dignity and unity of design seen in no other of the old places in the District.

The western part of the square to the east of "Tudor Place" was conveyed by Thomas Beall in 1805 to Harriet, wife of Elisha O. Williams, she having received

it as part of the estate of her father, Brooke Beall, to whom it had been sold but not conveyed. Both Mr. and Mrs. Williams were descended from members of the Convention of 1776, which adopted the Declaration of Rights and severed the connection between Maryland and the Mother Country,—Elisha Williams being the ancestor of one and Samuel Beall of the other. Left a widow about six months after acquiring the property, Mrs. Williams built a home for her infant children, and some thirty years later settled the entire northern part upon her son Brooke Williams and Rebecca his wife. Mrs. Rebecca Williams was a beautiful woman, and all her children inherited her grace and beauty of person. The marriage of her young daughter Harriet to the aged Russian Minister Bodisco, when the popular idol Henry Clay gave away the bride, has been the theme of many romantic stories. Some years after the death of Mr. Bodisco she married Colonel Douglass Gordon Scott, of the British Army, and passed much of her time in India, though returning often to her old home. The Williams' residence, though not as large as some on the Heights, was a commodious double brick with wings to the west, which without architectural pretensions, was rendered dignified by the noble oaks on either side of the entrance. Within it was most attractive, the spacious parlor on the east, which opened into a conservatory filled with blooming plants, being adorned with pictures, of which the central attraction was a life-sized portrait of Mrs. Bodisco, taken in the gorgeous robes of state she wore on the occasion of her presentation to the Emperor of Russia.

The eastern part of the square, adjoining the Williams' and containing about eight and one-half acres, was "Peter's Grove," which was conveyed by Beall to William Craik in 1798. He was the son of Doctor

James Craik, who accompanied Washington on the Braddock expedition and was with him during the entire Revolutionary War, and who at the request of his chief made his home near Mount Vernon and attended him during his last illness. Washington in his will mentioned him as "my compatriot in arms and intimate friend Dr. Craik." The wife of James Craik was the daughter of Colonel William Fitzhugh, of "Ravensworth," Fairfax County, Virginia, and sister of Mrs. George Washington Parke Custis, the mother of Mrs. Robert E. Lee. The evident intention was to make this spot their home, but Mrs. Craik died and her husband followed soon after. In 1808 it was sold to David Peter, another son of Robert Peter, who built the beautiful and stately mansion, which surrounded by giant oaks for so many years, graced the extensive and beautifully laid-out grounds. After the death of Mr. Peter it was sold in the thirties to Colonel John Carter, a wealthy and distinguished South Carolinian, who represented the State in Congress and had married Eleanor Marbury, daughter of one of the old families of the town, and became known as "Carolina Place." After the death of Colonel Carter it was the home of first the English and then the French Minister. The residence having been burned, it was in 1867 sold to Henry D. Cooke by John Carter O'Neal, of the Inniskillen Dragoons, son of Anne, only daughter of John Carter, who had married an English gentleman. Mr. Cooke planned the erection of a palatial residence, which was prevented by the failure of the firm of Jay Cook & Co.

The square to the east, between Twenty-ninth and Thirtieth Streets, was the home of Colonel George Corbin Washington, great-nephew, and at the time of his death in 1854, the nearest relative of General

George Washington. He was one of the presidents of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, for many years a Representative in Congress from the adjoining Maryland District, and a prominent candidate for the Vice-Presidency at the time Winfield Scott was nominated for President. The property belonged to his first wife Elizabeth, to whom it had been devised by her father Thomas Beall of George. On her death it went to her only son, Lewis W. Washington, the same who was captured and held as a hostage by John Brown, at Harper's Ferry. Colonel Washington's second wife was Ann Thomas Peter, a descendant of Ninian Beall, and sister of John Peter, Mayor of the town from 1813 to 1818. Both wives were descendants of the Rev. John Orme, a distinguished clergyman of Maryland in Colonial days.

Shortly after the death of Colonel Washington the square was sold to and became the home of Jesse D. Bright, Senator from Indiana, who during the War between the States was deprived of his seat in the Senate on account of his sympathy with the South. The dwelling, which is on the crest of the hill near the corner of R Street, though much changed, still stands. It was a large two-storied double brick with entrance from the north, wide hall and spacious rooms, and uninterrupted view from the southern front.

The square east of the Washington Place has always been known as "Mackall Square," and was purchased in 1805 by Christiana Mackall, daughter of Brooke Beall, with money received from his estate. Her husband, Benjamin Mackall, was the son of Benjamin Mackall, a wealthy planter of Calvert County, Maryland, member of the Convention of 1776 and chairman of the Committee of Safety. In 1838 Mrs. Mackall conveyed the square to her son Louis, who made it his

home until his death in 1876. Dr. Mackall, who had graduated in medicine at the University of Maryland in 1824, after practicing his profession for a number of years, retired and devoted himself to literary pursuits. He was a great student and a man of much culture, his published works, especially those upon philosophical and scientific subjects, showing research and ability of a high order. Until within the past few years the property has been the home and in possession of the family. The dwelling house was a large double brick, without architectural beauty, but commodious and well built. With its out-buildings it remains as originally built in the middle of the square.

To the east of Twenty-eight Street, extending southerly from Q to P Street and easterly to Mill Street, is "Bellevue." The eastern part passed from Beall to Peter Casenave in 1796 and included a large tract south of P Street, which had not then been opened so far to the east. Between then and 1805, when sold to Joseph Nourse, it passed through several hands. It went to Nourse through a chancery suit instituted by the United States against the several parties who held under Casenave. The fact that the dwelling house had been erected shortly before the year 1802 appears in the proceedings, which are interesting as showing that the real owner from whom Nourse purchased was the United States, the conveyance from the trustee in chancery having been to Gabriel Duvall, then Comptroller of the Treasury and afterwards for twenty-five years a Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. Duvall immediately conveyed to Nourse, and all payments of purchase money were made into the Treasury. A few years later Nourse purchased the Western part from Beall, making the tract as it existed until a comparatively short time ago. It is more than

probable that the row of Lombardy poplars along Twenty-eighth Street front, which by their size and beauty formed one of the great attractions of the town, was planted during the ownership of Nourse.

Joseph Nourse was born in London in 1754, came to Virginia when a lad, served in the Revolutionary Army, was secretary to General Charles Lee, and later auditor of the Board of War. When the organization under the Constitution was made, he became Register of the Treasury, coming to the District when the seat of government was removed from Philadelphia, and serving in that position from 1789 to 1829.

In 1813 the entire tract was sold by Nourse to Charles Carroll, of Bellevue, nephew of Daniel Carroll, the Federal Commissioner, and brother of Daniel Carroll of Duddington. The fact that he and his brother had shortly before purchased the paper mill on Rock Creek just below "Bellevue" may have been the inducement for making it his home. A few years later he removed to Livingston County, New York, where he died in 1824. In the deed to him he is styled "Charles Carroll of Bellevue," and so signed himself in his will. As he had not used the designation prior to acquiring the property, it would seem that he adopted it at that time. Since then the place has been known as "Bellevue."

For a number of years prior to the death of Charles Carroll it was the home of Samuel Whitall and his wife Lydia Newbold, and in 1841 it was conveyed by the executors of Carroll for the use of Mrs. Whitall, and continued to be the home of the family until within a few years back. Mr. Whitall was a distinguished-looking old gentleman, and was accustomed to drive around in a high two-wheeled gig, the last of the kind in this neighborhood. Probably there never were more

beautifully proportioned rooms in this part of the country than those on the ground floor of the "Bellevue" house,—the parlor on the west adorned with paintings from Italy, and the reception room adjoining with its rounded northern end, being particularly attractive. It is one of the most beautiful specimens of the architecture of the early part of the nineteenth century now remaining in the District, and it is a pleasure to know that when Q Street is extended through the property it will be moved back and remain one of the ornaments of the town.

North of "Bellevue" and extending northerly to Rock Creek and easterly to Mill Street was "Evermay." The northern part is now Oak Hill Cemetery, and although the southern part has been built upon, the old house on the crest of the hill surrounded by its grounds remains as of old. This was the home of Samuel Davidson, who purchased from Beall, part in 1794 and part in 1804. He was one of the original proprietors of the Federal City, the President's House and Lafayette Park being on the land owned by him. A most eccentric man, he lived the life of a hermit, using every precaution to prevent intrusion upon his privacy. He died childless, and by his will devised the property to his nephew Lewis Grant on condition that he take the name of Davidson, which provision was complied with under authority of an act of Congress in 1811, and thereafter the family was known as Grant Davidson, though the hyphen was not used. For many years it was the home of Lewis Grant Davidson and Eliza Crawford his wife, and later by their daughter, Mrs. Charles Dodge.

"Evermay" in its entirety was very beautiful: the large extent of woodland, the green hillsides, the terraces with hazel hedges (the delight of the boys who

were permitted to gather nuts in the fall), being fit settings for the spacious old mansion. The lower part of the grounds bordering on Rock Creek was especially attractive, a wall some eight or ten feet in height having been erected, along the base of which flowed the waters of the stream, while within was a broad roadway shaded with forest trees.

Along the north line of R Street is "Oak Hill Cemetery," the portion of which extending easterly from a point a short distance east of the chapel having been a part of "Evermay." The western portion is the only place on the Heights not disposed of by Thomas Beall for residential purposes. By his will it was devised to his daughter Elizabeth Washington, and was in 1848 conveyed by her son and heir to William W. Corcoran, who in 1848 conveyed it to the Cemetery Company whose charter had just been granted by Congress. Mr. Corcoran not only gave this lovely burial place for the people of Georgetown (his birth place), but expended over one hundred thousand dollars in its beautification, and provided in its charter that it should "be forever inalienable." Though never owned by Parrott, it was known to the old residents as "Parrott's Woods," probably because together with the land on the west owned by him it constituted for many years an unenclosed, undivided woodland. As "Parrott's Woods" it was the chosen spot for patriotic meetings of Georgetownians, the use going back at least as far as 1812. Many have been the addresses made beneath its spreading trees by popular orators, budding lawyers and youthful graduates, and many the bountiful feast spread before the delighted listeners. On these occasions the whole town turned out, and men, women and children mingled in kindly association.

Within "Oak Hill" repose the remains of most of the former owners of the places mentioned, and in nearly every case their resting places are in the extreme northwestern section, overlooking Rock Creek, the beautiful stream they loved so well.

The last place to be mentioned is "Montrose," which lies west of "Oak Hill" and east of Lovers' Lane. It became the property of Richard Parrott by three conveyances between 1804 and 1813. In one of the deeds the dam over the creek afterwards known as Lyon's Dam is mentioned, showing it was built over one hundred years ago. During the ownership of Parrott he used the level path along the side of the woods as a rope walk, rope being then in great demand for the numerous vessels visiting the port, and by the name "The Rope Walk" it was known to subsequent owners. In deeds as early as 1817 not only the rope walk but the gardens are mentioned, and from constant reference in subsequent deeds to gardens they must have been show places for many years. In 1822 Parrott died, designating himself in his will as "of Elderslie adjoining Georgetown"; so it is probable that the place formerly bore the name of "Elderslie." His estate was much involved, and the property with the exception of the woodland on the east was sold under decree in chancery to Clement Smith in 1822. Mr. Smith was one of the most prominent citizens of the town, having been the president of the Farmers and Mechanics Bank for many years. In 1837 it was sold to Mary McEwen Boyce, and ten years later her husband, William M. Boyce, became the owner of the woodland. It remained in the family until purchased by the United States for a park and is known as "Montrose." Captain Boyce was a graduate of West Point in 1828 and became a captain, resigning in 1836

to become Chief of the Geodetic Survey. In 1840 the families of "Tudor Place" and "Montrose" were united by the marriage of George Washington Peter, son of Martha Peter, to Jane Boyce, sister of Captain William M. Boyce. Captain Boyce died in 1856 of wounds received in a railroad accident in which his daughter was killed. Mrs. Boyce made it her home until her death. During the many years it was occupied by the Boyce family it was an ideal home, the spacious residence of the style of over a hundred years ago affording ample room for the gracious hospitality so liberally dispensed.

"Montrose" was secured as a park through the untiring work of the women of Georgetown, who though for years unsuccessful never relaxed their efforts until at last the reward came and it was purchased. It is beautiful in its location, its level plateaus and gently sloping hills, its grass and shrubs and glorious forest trees; and it is the heart-felt wish of those who know it best and love it most that whilst it be cared for and its natural beauties developed it will never be converted from what it now is into a formal artificial park. Whilst the smooth lawns and old-fashioned box-edged gardens will please, the greatest attraction will be the woodland, with its ancient oaks, hickories and birches, some of which were probably standing when Captain John Smith sailed up the Potomac in 1608; beautiful in spring when the buds burst forth and the new leaves mingle their tender greens, beautiful in summer when clothed in full foliage, beautiful in autumn when clad in vivid scarlets and sober browns, and if possible more beautiful when rising from the snow-clad ground they stretch their naked limbs to the wintry sky. Beneath them the loving kindness of the Creator will be

recognized, and purer thoughts may arise from nature to nature's God.

The owners of the places mentioned were not men of wealth in the present acceptation of the word; but they were men of birth, education, high character and influence for good in the community and their wives and daughters were women of charming personality and greatest refinement. Together with their near neighbors, they constituted a society sought by the most cultivated and distinguished in the public and private life of the Capital.

Familiar with the Heights since boyhood, having passed many happy hours in the homes and personally known many of those mentioned, it has been a special pleasure to speak of them. Possibly some day when you walk over the Heights and through the old-fashioned gardens and under the trees of the park you may recall the memory and in imagination enjoy the company of those high-minded, high-spirited gentlemen and lovely and gracious ladies.

In conclusion, paraphrasing Kipling, I will say: "Let those who have listened to the end, pardon a hundred blemishes."